

# **Senior Group Residence Program**

- · Affordable, shared residential housing
- Supportive services for low income seniors



Project Match residents at our home in Campbell enjoy a sunny afternoon in the backyard.

**Serving Seniors Since 1977** 

## The Challenge

The senior population in Santa Clara County is growing and so are the number of seniors who struggle economically, limiting their ability to function independently and live with dignity.

#### Consider these facts:

- 179,000 seniors 55+ in Santa Clara County have annual incomes below \$22,000;
- Seniors living in the County have increased 33.6% since 1990;
- The average monthly rent in the County is \$1,146 - more than the total monthly income of over 60,000 seniors now living within the County.

#### Seniors often face personal challenges:

- Loss of loved ones;
- Declining health and mobility;
- The need for financial and community resources and support;
- 25% of seniors 65+ live alone, leading to social isolation and depression;
- Seniors are 13% of the population, yet account for 25% of all suicides.

#### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to provide seniors whose annual income is \$22,000 or less with safe, affordable housing and support services that enable them to live independently, in a shared housing environment. Most of our housing rents for just 30% of a senior's income.



This beautiful backyard is the result of the "pride of ownership" that is common among our residents.

We were the first non-profit organization in the nation to explore "home sharing", an innovative housing strategy for seniors with low incomes. We began by renting a six-bedroom house in San Jose, furnishing the common areas of the house, installing phone and cable television, and renting rooms at affordable rates to seniors.



Exterior and interior space provides residents with privacy as well as social opportunities.

Today we manage 42 units of affordable housing for seniors in San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Campbell, Saratoga and Los Gatos. The average age of current residents is 73 years and their average monthly income is \$995. Their cost to live in a Project Match shared home, including rent, utilities, phone, and cable TV averages just \$275 a month.

The Senior Group Residence Program has proven effective in providing seniors affordable housing plus an environment of community with other seniors. Housemates become close friends, providing each other with invaluable support, companionship, and security in case of an emergency. Each has a private bedroom and shares the common areas of the home.



Our homes are located in lovely single-family neighborhoods such as this one is Sunnyvale.

## Support Services



The Project Match Social Worker visits each home on a regular basis to provide support and information.

Sharing a home with other seniors can be a wonderful experience. At the same time, we realize that there may be challenges to such an arrangement. These challenges include interpersonal conflict, learning to share a home after decades of independence, dealing with the grief of losing loved ones, and having to leave a beloved home behind. Therefore, we offer ongoing support services provided by our social worker.



Residents appreciate the availability and friendliness of our on-going support services.

Knowing that the Social Worker is available to help overcome such challenges can make a big difference in the well being of our residents. The Social Worker gets to know each person individually. She offers on-going needs assessment, monitors the resident's health, and helps to ease the new resident into a shared living arrangement with emotional support.

The Social Worker also works with the group as a whole, providing conflict resolution, teaching socialization skills where necessary and helping the residents create a warm and comfortable community of friends. The Social Worker also serves as a liaison between the home and the community at-large. The goal is always to create a real home. This means that in addition to helping the residents feel comfortable together, the Social Worker strives to integrate the residents into the neighborhood.

# **Property Management**

Project Match provides property management services for all of its properties. This includes yard service and routine maintenance and repair. We maintain relationships with over a dozen contractors to ensure timely response to needed repairs. Each resident has a direct contact to our Property Manager so that if anything needs fixing, residents can rest assured repairs will be made promptly. We conduct annual inspections of all properties, and over the last two years, all our properties have been remodeled and upgraded to provide a comfortable home environment.



Our property management staff and contractors take pride in keeping our homes in tip-top condition.

For information about our housing program or to apply for housing with Project Match, please call our Property Manager at 408-416-0271

# **Funding**

Operating and Capital funds for Project Match comes from several sources:

- Rental Proceeds
- Governmental agencies
   Including the cities of Campbell, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Saratoga, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Los Gatos and the County of Santa Clara
- Non-profit foundations
   Including Community Foundation Silicon
   Valley, Farrington Foundation, Mission City
   Fund, Skoll Foundation, Sobrato Foundation
   and the Valley Foundation
- <u>Corporations</u>
   Including AMD, Association of Silicon Valley Brokers, IBM and Wells Fargo
- United Way
- Individual donors

Similar to other non-profit organizations in Silicon Valley, we have experienced reduced revenue due to the valley's economic downturn. With the exception of the United Way, Silicon Valley Community Fund, foundation and corporate support of Project Match has fallen 25%.

But because the need for our services to low-income seniors is so great, we are determined to find the additional sources of revenue that will allow us to expand our activities. If the information in this brochure has resonated with you, we would like to hear from you and invite your financial and personal support.

512 Valley Way, Milpitas, CA 95035 Phone 408-416-0271 Bob Campbell, Executive Director Bob@projectmatch.org

